

JUN 24 1998

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 98-10010

COUNSEL: NONE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (AF 18 101 984)

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His WD AGO Form 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation, be corrected to reflect award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal, with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters.

The applicant's request for award of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, with 2 Bronze Service Stars, and the Distinguished Unit Citation, with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster was administratively corrected on 30 May 1997. Applicant's request that the number of missions be corrected to reflect 61 was administratively corrected on 17 March 1998. Hence, no Board action is required on this portion of applicant's request.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

His records should be corrected to eliminate the errors.

In support of his request, applicant submits copies of his WD AGO Form 53-55, his discharge certificate and additional documents associated with the issues cited in his contentions. These documents are appended at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Applicant's military personnel records were destroyed by fire in 1973.

Information extracted from applicant's WD AGO Form 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation, reveals that the applicant contracted his enlistment in the Army Air Corps on 1 May 1942. He was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps in the grade of staff sergeant (E-5) on 6 November 1945 for the convenience of the government due to demobilization. He had completed a total of 3 years, 6 months and 5 days at the time of his discharge and had prior service of 2 years, 10 months and 22 days.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Recognition Programs Branch, HQ AFPC/DPPRA, stated that the applicant has provided no documentation to substantiate his claim for additional oak leaf clusters to the Distinguished Flying Cross or the Air Medal. DPPRA stated that the applicant has been informed on several occasions since 1992 that, without documentation to show that a recommendation was submitted in writing through official channels within the required time limit, they (DPPRA) cannot verify his entitlement to any additional oak leaf clusters. DPPRA indicated that the applicant has not provided any documentation or even stated that a written recommendation was submitted regarding any additional oak leaf clusters. DPPRA recommended the applicant's request for award of 2 oak leaf clusters to the Distinguished Flying Cross and eight oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal be denied. A complete copy of this evaluation is appended at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to applicant on 30 June 1997 for review and response. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit E).

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
 2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
 3. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice with regard to award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal, with 8 Oak Leaf Clusters. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case; however, we agree with the opinion and recommendation of the Air Force office of primary responsibility (HQ AFPC/DPPRA) and adopt their rationale as the basis for our conclusion that the applicant has not been the victim of an error or injustice. Other than his own assertions, the applicant has not provided any documentation showing that a recommendation package was placed into official military channels. Therefore, absent sufficient evidence to the contrary, we find no basis upon which to recommend favorable action on his request.
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THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified that the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of probable material error or

injustice; that the application was denied without a personal appearance; and that the application will only be reconsidered upon the submission of newly discovered relevant evidence not considered with this application.

The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 15 May 1998, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mr. Leroy T. Baseman, Panel Chair
Mr. Steven A. Shaw, Member
Mr. Parker C. Horner, Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. Letter from applicant, dated 27 May 97, with DD Form 149, dated 12 Dec 91, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, HQ AFPC/DPPRA, dated 13 Jun 97.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 30 Jun 97.


LEROY T. BASEMAN
Panel Chair